

tions of which it may well be proud: the Library of the Medical School of the University of California, the Lane Medical Library of Stanford University, and the Barlow Medical Library of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. In addition, the San Francisco, Alameda, San Diego and Riverside County Medical Societies also maintain libraries available for certain local needs.

Attention of members of the California Medical Association is called to the three larger libraries first mentioned because these institutions are willing to be of service to members of the medical profession throughout the State. Communications addressed to them, on specified topics relating to packet service, will receive careful consideration, and librarians will be happy to send available literature from their reserve shelves.

The University of California Library is supported by state taxation and has taken over the work of the State Medical Library, the San Francisco and Los Angeles Branches of which were forced to suspend on July, 1939, when appropriations were no longer obtainable. Lane Medical Library, of Stanford University Medical School, and the Barlow Medical Library, of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, for a number of years have received annual donations from the California Medical Association, and, in return, have been glad to extend their facilities for packet library service to physicians who do not reside in their cities. For convenience in correspondence, therefore, their addresses are here given, and every Association member is invited to avail himself of the exceptional opportunities referred to:

University of California Medical Library, Medical Center, San Francisco, (telephone, MOntrorse 3600.)

Lane Medical Library (Stanford Medical School), 2398 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, (telephone, WESt 8000).

Barlow Medical Library (Los Angeles County Medical Association), 634 South Westlake, Los Angeles, (telephone, FIItzroy 7694).

ACHILLES HEEL OF AMERICAN MEDICINE

"National Physicians' Committee for the Extension of Medical Service."—Concerning the "National Physicians' Committee for the Extension of Medical Service"* and its laudable objectives, discussion will be made in a future issue. Here and now, attention is called to the caption of these comments, "Achilles Heel of American Medicine," because that is the title of a reprint article appearing on page 360 in the current number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

The OFFICIAL JOURNAL has only rarely broken its self-imposed rule not to give place, in the original articles department, to reprinted topics. However, since circumstances alter cases, and because the medical profession of California has had some very illuminating experiences in recent years regarding attempts to institute governmental direc-

tion in medical practice, it seems desirable to give special place to the "Achilles Heel" article, in the hope that every member of the California Medical Association will take the time to read the important pronouncements contained therein, which are so forcibly and pungently stated.

The article was distributed in Chicago at the annual meeting of State Medical Association Secretaries and Editors, and bore on the front cover the following introduction:

A brief statement of the problem and a short outline of the steps that are being taken to offset the destructive processes which are undermining the profession and the industry.

While on the inside cover were these stimulating paragraphs:

The men now in medicine will determine what its future is to be.

A new factor is involved.

Propaganda coming into widespread use has adversely affected the status of the physician, and altered the viewpoint and the attitude of the patient.

The degree of independence, the relative place, and the quality of service of American Medicine for the future will be determined by the intelligence and vigor with which the physician faces—and deals with—this new problem.

The above should be additional incentive for perusal of the text of "The Achilles Heel of American Medicine," which, as before stated, appears on page 360 of this issue.*

Other State Association and Component County Society News.—Additional news concerning the activities and work of the California Medical Association and its component county medical societies is printed in this issue, commencing on page 394.

EDITORIAL COMMENT†

CARCINOGENIC VIRUS IN TAR SARCOMA

Demonstration by McIntosh and Selbie¹ of Middlesex Hospital, England, of a carcinogenic virus in chemically induced sarcoma in fowls, coupled with Parson's² previous demonstration of a similar filterable virus in tar leukemia and sarcoma of mice, may necessitate revisions of current theories as to the etiology of chemically induced malignant disease.

The presence of atypical antigens in tar sarcoma was first deduced by Andrewes,³ from serologic evidence. He found that a tar sarcoma of fowls would grow for a time if transplanted into adult pheasants. All pheasants thus serving as hosts for the malignant fowl tissues developed antibodies that would neutralize the virus of Rous sarcoma.

† This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents editorial comments by contributing members on items of medical progress, science and practice, and on topics from recent medical books or journals. An invitation is extended to all members of the California Medical Association to submit brief editorial discussions suitable for publication in this department. No presentation should be over five hundred words in length.

* See also article, "The Platform of the American Medical Association," on page 394.

¹ McIntosh, James, and Selbie, F. R.: Brit. J. Exper. Path., 20:49 (Feb.), 1939.

² Parsons, L. Dorothy: J. Path. and Bact., 43:1, 1936.

³ Andrewes, C. H.: Ibid., 43:23, 1936.

* Office of the National Physicians' Committee: Suite 207, at 700 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, John M. Pratt, executive administrator.